

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



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Imagery analysis report

**New Construction at Moskva
E-21 Comsat Station, USSR (S)**

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NEW CONSTRUCTION AT MOSKVA E-21 COMSAT STATION, USSR (S)

1. [REDACTED] This report describes new construction at the Moskva E-21 Comsat Station (BE [REDACTED] Figure 1), USSR, 45 nautical miles south-southwest of Moscow. The new construction may be an expansion of the Soviet's launch detection satellite (LDS) system, which involves the use of satellites in synchronous and semisynchronous orbits to detect US ICBM and SLBM launches. Moskva E-21 has been assessed as the ground control and reception site for the satellites used in the LDS system.¹

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2. (TSR) The new construction (Figure 1) is underway on the northwest edge of the comsat station. It involves a large antenna control building, concrete anchor blocks for a large trestle crane, a large graded area, and three support buildings in the main area of construction. A fourth support building is under construction in the south-central portion of the facility and adjacent to the four previously constructed 25-meter-diameter dish antennas.

3. (TSR) The large antenna control building, 138 by 49 meters, is in the early-to-mid stage of construction (Figure 2). Two 19-meter-square antenna supports/pedestals, one near each end, are under construction within the building. Twelve anchor blocks, which will be used to erect a large trestle crane, have been placed near the ends of the building. In the past, this type of crane has been used to lift assembled 25- and 30-meter dish antennas. On this basis, a 25- or 30-meter dish is expected to be emplaced on each of the 19-meter-square antenna supports/pedestals.

4. (TSR) The new graded area is northeast of the antenna control building. Additional control and support buildings may be constructed there. The three support buildings currently in the early-to-mid stage of construction in the main area of activity are 66 by 30 meters, 42 by 30 meters, and 72 by 18 [REDACTED]. The exact function of these buildings is unknown. The fourth support building (Figure 1), 54 by 18 by 5 meters, is in the area of the four previously constructed 25-meter-diameter antennas. This building may not be directly associated with the main area of activity.

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REFERENCES**IMAGERY**

(TSR) All pertinent KEYHOLE imagery acquired from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was used in the preparation of this report.

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MAPS OR CHARTS

ACIC, US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0167-9, scale 1:200,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

DOCUMENT

1. USAF/ETD, TCS-143943/77/1, *Project Band Stand Report No. 50 (U)*, 31 Jan 79 (TOP SECRET [REDACTED])

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REQUIREMENT

Project 130153NC

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [REDACTED] Soviet Strategic Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [REDACTED]

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